

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5582

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, CE, PORG

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

1. ACCORDING TO MFA AND SRI LANKA EMBASSY OFFICIALS, PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF SRI LANKA DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS LAKHSHMAN JAYKODY IN STOPPING OVER IN ISLAMABAD MAY 13-14 EN ROUTE TO PEKING WAS TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. SRI LANKER EMBOFF SAID JAYKODY WANTED TO GET FURTHER READING OF GOP ATTITUDE TOWARD SUMMIT, AND THAT THIS WAS MAIN ITEM IN HIS MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY AHGA SHAHI, MOST SENIOR PAK OFFICIAL HE MET DURING BRIEF STAY.

2. ACCORDING SRI LANKA EMBOFF, PAKS WERE LESS CATEGORICAL THAN BHUTTO HAD BEEN DURING COLOMBO VISIT LAST DECEMBER IN REJECTING IDEA OF ATTENDING SUMMIT. AS THEY HAVE WITH RECENT VISITORS, THEY TOOK POSITION THAT PAKISTAN ACTUALLY WAS NON-ALIGNED (SHAHI PRIVATELY CHARACTERIZING CENTO AS A "HOLLOW SHELL") BUT GIVEN ILLOGICAL RULES FOR NAM MEMBERSHIP WAS AWARE THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT COULD NOT HOPE TO BE ADMITTED. THEY INDICATED THAT IN RECENT TALKS HERE INDIANS HAD LET THEM KNOW THEY WERE

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FIRMLY OPPOSED TO GOP MEMBERSHIP. THEY HAD HINTED,

HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME THE GSL'S HELPING TO CHANGE THE RULES AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR THEM. JAYKODY GAVE THEM NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

3. PAKS, ACCORDING TO SRI LANKAN EMBOFF'S VERSION, EXPRESSED CONCERN TO JAYKODY ABOUT YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL ON STRENGTHENING OF NON-ALIGNED SECURITY WHICH, EMBOFF RECALLED, IS INSCRIBED AS AGENDA ITEM ELEVEN. (PAKS HAD EXPRESSED THEIR DISMAY AT THIS PROPOSAL TO VISITING YUGOSLAV FORMIN MINIC HERE LAST MONTH, ISLAMABAD 4284.) JAYKODY HAD TAKEN LINE THAT UNTIL IT BECAME CLEAR WHAT FORM THIS ITEM TOOK GSL COULD NOT TAKE POSITION ON IT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOP HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN BRINGING ITS INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON ITS FRIENDS IN CONNECTION WITH ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO PAKISTAN WHICH WILL ARISE AT NAC AND HAS FAVORED OBSERVER STATUS FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AT COLOMBO (WHAT SOME HERE CHARACTERIZE AS MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE BACK DOOR), IT UNDERSTANDS THAT IT CANNOT ASPIRE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP AT THIS TIME (IT IS NOT INTERESTED IN LESSER STATUS) AND CANNOT REALISTICALLY HOPE THAT ANY GROUP OF POWERS WILL BE EITHER WILLING OR ABLE TO CHANGE THE RULES FOR ITS BENEFIT. IT RECOGNIZES THAT ANY FRUSTRATED BID TO GET IN WILL REPRESENT A PUBLIC SETBACK, INTERRUPTING WHAT HAS BEEN REPRESENTED TO THE PAK PUBLIC AS A LONG STRING OF DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES, AND IS TO BE AVOIDED.
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